# The Point

The Fitchburg State College Newspaper

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# Campus Pizza burns down

By Amy S. Bobrowski

On November 27 at approximately 4:00 a.m., Gloria Mickey of 186 Pearl St. woke to the sound of her fire alarm. When she entered her son's room the smoke was so thick that she could not tell the light and television were both on.

The five adults, three children, dogs and a cat made it out of the house safely. After waking up her boyfriend, David Brennan, Mickey made sure everybody got out of the house as quickly as possible. Only a hamster and iguana are the victims of the fire that started in the variety store section of Campus Pizza located on Highland Ave. "My daughter grabbed the hamster, but dropped him while she was running, and I would not let her go back for him. Two or three minutes longer in the house and we would have been dead," said Mickey.

Photo by Jeff Ruscio.

Campus Pizza ablaze in the early morning of Nov. 27.

Mike Haidousis, co-owner of Campus Pizza, took his time getting to the sight after receiving what he thought was a regular security call. "I just took my time. I thought maybe a window was broken or some trash was on fire," said Haidousis.

Jim Idaris, co-owners with Haidousis, also received a phone call at 4:00 a.m. Leaving his house on Townsend St., he reached the scene only five minutes later to find the whole building engulfed in flames. "It was unbelievable. I've never seen a fire that big," he said.

The two have been in the business together for 21 years and have been at their current location on Highland Ave. for 11 years. "That's our lives here," said Haidousis, "I'm going to miss it, but the kids are going to miss it too."

Idaris agrees and plans to rebuild as soon as they get the go-ahead from the insurance company. "There is a closeness with the students, faculty and neighbors. It's like family. This place has made me what I am today. We definitely plan to rebuild. We've received a lot of support today from students and neighbors." They will have to start from scratch having lost over $300,000 in the fire that destroyed the two buildings and most of the adjacent house.

Mickey and her family also received much support. Along with a gift certificate from the Red Cross, Campus Pizza employee, Sean Peterson helped to start a collection for the family by placing containers in the college's commuter cafeteria and bookstore. The family, whose landlord is Idaris, will stay with relatives for about a week until Idaris can get a new place ready for them in the same area.

Despite all this much appreciated aid, there are some things that can't be replaced. A bedroom, bathroom, and the dining room were untouched as of Nov. 27, so Mickey hopes to be able to recover some items. "My kids' father is deceased, and the only pictures I have of him are in there. If I can save anything, that's better than nothing."

Of course they will have to be extremely careful and execute security evaluations to ensure the foundation is intact. Because of the extensive damage, the currently standing walls could fall down making any recovery of items impossible. "Everything in there is fairly new. We just bought our Christmas tree and started decorating. We had a new $1,100 living room set that was lost," said Mickey.

Houses located adjacent to the burning buildings were also evacuated. "It was very scary. Fire fighters started banging on our windows at around 3:45 a.m. to get us out. Flames were just shooting out of the roof of Campus Pizza, and there were already so many fire trucks. Then stuff started hitting our roof," said Amanda Legay of 227 Highland Ave. Legay says she and her roommates eat at least six meals a week that come from Campus Pizza.

Police are working hard on an investigation, but as of early that Tuesday afternoon, did not know what caused the fire. "Hopefully it was just a freak thing," said Idaris, "It would break my heart if somebody did this intentionally."

"We just have to take our time and put this together pieces by pieces," Haidousis said of the investigation. "We would like to thank everybody for their great support. Since four o'clock in the morning, everybody came by to support us."

The college community, too, is saddened by this horrible event. "It's just so shocking. I can't believe it happened. My friend was just there last night. I really hope they fix it up," said FSC student Nicole Slaven.

Fellow student, Kelly Dunn said, "This is very disappointing. It was just so convenient." For years and years students have been running to Campus Pizza and Variety Store for late night snacks or to purchase those few necessities that can't be found at the bookstore. It is the only place within safe walking distance

**Continued on page 4**

## Cease fire

### Arrest for Aubuchon fires made

The recent fires set in Aubuchon hall of late finally have been fully confessed to. A student, who due to a pending investigation cannont be identified at this time, was apprehended by Campus police on Friday Nov. 12th.

**See letter from President Riccards on page 3.**

# Letter from the Editor

By Amy S. Bobrowski

Here it is. Papers, papers everywhere and grades swim or sink. That's right, the semester is drawing to an end as the light of day gets shorter and shorter, the ever lingering dark depicting students' mood in the crunch time. It seems like just yesterday that I was unpacking Mom and Dad's station wagon ready to embark on a new year at FSC.

However, much has happened, so much has changed. Our worlds have been shaken by the events of Sept. 11th, and our campus frightened by threats of bombs and violence against our president's life. We are to have a new Vice President of Academic Affairs, and we lost the yummy treats and convenience of our beloved Campus Pizza. Despite the hardships, we have continued to grow as a college community and as individuals. Each of us has been affected by at least one of these events, perhaps all, and our college has provided numerous outlets for our feelings and support. Forums and discussions have taken place both in and outside that classroom setting. Friends and family suddenly seem closer than ever before as we realize how truly blessed we really are.

AmeriCulture again was a success, as were the festivities of FalconFest. Weekly events are held in the Underground Pub, and FAT trips continue to provide students with the opportunity to see a show, attend a game, or get a way for a while. Campus Police purchased new vehicles, increasing their ability to protect and serve students, staff and faculty. And Chartwells Catering now serves ready to order meals at additional times. With admission steadily rising, can this school do anything but get better?

During the hectic finals times, students can enjoy "Final Frenzy" study breaks in the M&M lounge on Dec. 13, and 16-19. Also to look forward to is the Friday Classic Lunch with Dave Binder as James Taylor on Dec. 7, and a FAT trip to NYC on Sat. Dec. 8. Don't miss the opportunity to see the tree, take in the sights, or go skating at Rockefeller Plaza.

FSC has had it all this semester with comedians, hypnotists, bands, and more. Upon returning in January there will not be one event, but a whole week's worth of welcoming activities easing students back into the routine. Those in the mood to laugh, and who isn't after folding and unfolding clothes, should enjoy some time with comedian Romont Harris on Tues., Jan. 15.

Dreading the return to class on Jan. 16? While in those rigid desks, envision yourself $500 richer after raking it in at that evening's Casino Night. Aching to shed those holiday pounds? What better way than dancing the night away on Jan. 17 in the Underground Pub. Then by Fri., Jan 18, you'll be feeling good spending time in the hot tub for the Ray Boston Beach Party sponsored by the Class of 2005 and Programs Committee. Finishing off the week, leave the warm beach for the chilly mountains as the freshman class sponsors a day of snow tubing at Amesbury on Jan 19th.

Planners should be packed with things to do, and that's just the first week of the new semester. Of course we can rely on having additional comedians, bands and FAT trips to enjoy. Catch up with friends during these activities and it may feel like winter break hasn't ended.

But don't forget to have a good break!

-Samantha Baker contributed to this letter.

# Hey, big spender!

By Sharlene K. Gugarty

Like it or not, the holiday shopping season is again upon us. Nobody has any spare time these days with papers and projects due, finals to study for and gifts to buy. Since we are college students, we know there is not any spare money in our pockets. I have a proposal for your consideration. This year, do your shopping in Fitchburg!

Whether you walk to campus classes from Russell Towers or drive from another area code to get to class, you are a part of Fitchburg. Just as each of us felt a part of us belonged in New York after September 11, as students of FSC we should feel a part of this city. As long as you are going to be here for class or exams, why not patronize a few of the local businesses?

Cinema World in the John Fitch Plaza offers discounts to FSC students when you show your ID. Take in a movie after that tough exam instead of rushing out of town. After the movie, stop into Friendly's a grab a sandwich or have Jennifer or one of the other FSC students who works there make you one of their awesome sundaes. A.J. Wright, also in the John Fitch Plaza, is new to this area. They offer a selection of clothing, giftware and holiday items comparable to those you find in department stores, but not at department store prices. There is even a Dollar One store for those grab bag gifts and stocking stuffers.

Not too far down John Fitch Highway is the Creativity store, a great place to shop for ribbons, crafts and decorative items. The Salvation Army Thrift Store on Route 12 is another great place to shop for the holidays. What? Give a used item as a gift, you ask? Yes! What better gift for a do-it-yourselfer than a solid, used table and some refinishing supplies from the local hardware store? This is also a great place to shop for those friends and relatives who collect kitchenware, figurines or vintage jewelry and clothes. Be sure you take advantage of their discount program for FSC students, too.

Now that you have saved all this money by shopping locally instead of in those pricey mall stores, why not pick up an extra item or two? There is a giving tree in the M&M Lounge. You take a tag from the tree, purchase the gift on the tag and bring the gift to the box beside the tree. The gifts will be donated to a local charity. There are volunteer opportunities posted throughout the campus. These worthy organizations would gratefully accept even an hour of your spare time.

No, I am not on the Chamber of Commerce and I do not have an interest in any of these stores. This is just all part of the package of being a good neighbor. Don't forget to join the Commuter Board members at the Civic Center parking lot Monday, December 10. They'll be serving hot chocolate and doughnuts, so stop by on your way to the shuttle and meet your commuter representatives to SGA. They're the commuter voice on campus.Happy holidays!


## The Point

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*The Point* considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to an article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of *The Point,* its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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# Letter from the President

I am pleased to announce that an individual has confessed to setting a series of fires in Aubuchon Hall and has been removed from the campus.

An all-out effort by the college police, the city fire department and the state police have enabled the successful and swift completion of this investigation. I am very pleased with the cooperation we have received, and with the rewards for information that the state police have posted.

The team continues a determined investigation into a similar series of fires in Russell Towers. They are pursuing promising leads. In the meantime, anyone with information that might help our security team should call campus police at extension 3111 immediately. Two $500 rewards have been posted for information that leads to the identification and conviction of the individual.

Some people may be reluctant to come forward with information out of a loyalty to misguided codes or from fear of retribution. The fires, however minor they may appear to some, are potentially very dangerous. People with information should realize that their loyalty must be to their friends and roommates, not to those who put them in danger. Nor should anyone fear coming forward. Information is kept confidential and the college moves swiftly to remove individuals from campus who pose any danger.

I also want you to know that security will not be compromised by the current state budget crisis and that the college will spend additional money this year on new technology to help us thwart arson and other safety threats. Moreover, I have requested the Vice President for Student Affairs to review current practices and procedures and recommend any new steps that we might take to improve campus security.

Despite these incidents, we believe the campus to be a secure place for students to live and learn. That security lies in our demonstrated willingness to adhere to community values and act on the obligations of citizenship. We are a small campus where people build relationships and care about each other. The students who have come forward with information to help our investigators and the tireless efforts of the investigators themselves have proved once again that this is a community that will act quickly and decisively against those who would threaten our friends and colleagues.

Sincerely,
Michael P. Riccards

The Point would like to make the following corrections from issue eight's Letter to the Editor:

Last year the library had 153 place 1437 items on reserve. Also, in the April 2000, student survey of library services, only 7% indicated that the reserve service was not compatible with their needs.

# An example of ignorance

Recently The Point staff came across an article on the website of the Boston Herald. The article, written by Helrald columnist and radio show host, Howie Carr, is about the salaries of presidents of state colleges.

***"Let's face it, these are not colleges. Most of the students are there because they never had it together in high school."- Howie Carr.***

The full article can be read at the following address:
http://www.bostonherald.com/news/columnists/carr11212001.htm

After reading this, student trustee Nate Mackinnon posted the following response on the Herald's website:

Dear Mr. Carr,

Your recent article regarding State Colleges and Universities is a fine example of both ignorance and and stereotypes. The Presidents can't be paid enough for what they do, particularly here at Fitchburg State College. Dr. Riccards has done more for this institution than you could imagine. The students here really appreciate him and his efforts towards bettering this institution. Look at this line from your article- "Let's face it, these are not colleges. Most of the students are there because they never had it together in high school."

Wow Mr. Carr. Wow. That's a pretty bold statement coming from a guy with a whiny voice who's idea of "making it" is to bash others and the institutions they choose to attend. If you would like to talk about not having it together, either now or in high school, why don't you drop me a line. I will gladly fax over my high school transcript, resume' listing activities and a summary of the positions I held. In fact, I will gladly send along my roommate's accomplishments from high school too. He happened to be the president of the Mass. Assoc. of Student Councils.

The next time you write an article flooded with ignorance, try using some of these statements- "Let's face it, anyone who is on the radio is there because they were too ugly for television." Or how about this- "Anyone who goes to the theater is gay.... Anyone who plays sports also drinks and does drugs." Grow up Mr. Carr. The fact that some of us can't afford to attend a $30,000 university is beyond our control. Some of these students are the first to attend college in their families. Others come from families where going to college is not heard of. State Colleges provide that opportunity without the outrageous expense. Understand this Howie- an education is an education regardless of cost or prestige. The most important aspect is how you apply yourself. The only certainty between a student at Yale and a student at a state college is the

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# Bomb threat kept under control

By Melissa Ganley

At 8 p.m. on Wednesday, November 28, a student receptionist at the Hammond Campus Center received a call saying that a bomb would go off on campus sometime on Thursday and President Michael P Riccards would be shot.

After receiving the call, the FSC campus police notified Fitchburg police and fire departments, the state fire marshal, the Massachusetts state police and bomb squad. Not long after the call was received FSC police, building administrators, and resident assistants conducted a sweep of the campus.

Campus Police Chief Brian McCullough notified Riccards of the threat with a phone call. Riccards was determined to go about his normal business for the day, "He indicated that he must go on with his normal routine, and as the day went on he did not waver from that," McCullough said.

**"But if you started to cancel classes every-time this happened, nobody would get their degree." -Chief McCullough**

Classes and other activities for Thursday were not cancelled as a result of the threats. "We always treat every threat as legitimate, and make sure the staff and faculty are completely informed. But if you started to cancel classes every time this happened, nobody would get their degree." McCullough said. There is an ongoing investigation into who made the "angry" phone call.

# In defense of state colleges

**Continued from page 3**

kid in New Haven is spending more money. We all use the same books buddy! Hey... Maybe I could borrow some of yours from your STATE UNIVERSIY down in NC!!!

If we are going to make an assumption like this, why don't we dismiss all the students in Boston schools as trash and state that the only good students attend Wellesly public schools! Don't stereotype ANYONE who is TRYING. You don't know my past, you don't know my friends' pasts and you don't know where we are going. I will end with a quote and I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter soon.

"I never want to be anything more than I am."
--Louis Armstrong

# FSC says good-bye to a good friend and neighbor

Photo by Jeff Ruscio.

Campus Pizza will be missed.

**Continued from page 1**

from the campus that students can get a meal after the dining hall and commuter cafeteria have closed. Neighbors, students and faculty alike share this feeling of disappointment, having lost a place containing so much of their college culture and memories.

# Going Foward:

## September 11th Three Months Later

By Sharlene K. Gugarty

In response to the requests of several students, the SGA will sponsor a program entitled, "September 11-Three Months Later: Where Do We Go From Here?"

Tullio Neiman, Director of Student Activities and Associate Dean says that he and several SGA members were approached by students following the forum that was held shortly after the attacks. "They wanted to know how to get through this," Neiman says. At the request of SGA, he has put together a panel to answer the questions students and other college community members still face.

Dr. Ira Hymoff, Senior Psychologist and Assistant to the Vice President of Development for Civility at the University of Southern Maine (Portland) will chair a panel that will also feature Dr. Claire O'Brien, Director of International Education and Dr. Robert Hynes, Director of Counseling Services here at FSC.

The goal of the panel will be to directly address student questions and concerns about the process of "going forward" after the attacks of September 11. This will not be a lecture, but rather a discussion among students and panel members that will address topics of grief, spirituality and the difference between patriotism and nationalism.

The views of some of our international students will also be presented and discussed. SGA President Amber Keumurian will open the program Monday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hammond Main Lounge.

# MASSPIRG targets local retailer

On November 3, 2001, Massachusetts Student Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG) presented Staples, Inc, the largest office supplier in the country, with a "tree stump award" for using old growth trees in their office supply products. Old growth trees are a community of trees that have never been logged. America only has a few of these old growth, also known as virgin forests, most of which redwood's in California. The stump award was filled with pledges from students who are choosing not to work for Staples until the company changes it's policy and ends its use of old growth trees in its office products. Unfortunately, when the students approached the corporate headquarters to deliver the pledges, they were stopped by security guards who would not permit them to go near the building.

FSC student, Greg Bouchard commented, "Staples must know they are doing something wrong if they are not even willing to speak to us about where the wood for their paper comes from in the United States. It is unfortunate they will not directly address our concerns."

Jessica Deburro, from the UMass Lowell MASSPIRG Student Chapter, led a rally of 40 students at Staples Headquarters in Framingham. "We're asking Staples to stop using old growth forests in their office supplies. Only four percent of these original forests remain in the United States. We can't afford to lose any more. With Staples choosing to stop using old growth wood, we are one giant step closer to protecting this natural treasure."

Andy MacDonald, director of ecopledge.com, a national student environmental campaign devoted to changing corporate behavior to protect the environment, noted, "Over 300,000 students across the country have take the ecopledge, stating that they will not work for Staples until they change their policy concerning the use of old growth forests. Today's students are looking for employment in companies that share their same principles, and working for a company that's a good steward to the environment is at the top of the list. In this case, students are choosing not to work for Staples because of their continued use of old growth wood in their products."

At the rally, on of 200 actions that happened around the country, students delivered a four foot tree stump filled with 100 recent ecopledges that student across Massachusetts signed in the previous week. 10 of which came from FSC. Deburro stated more would continue to come. "There are alternatives to using old growth wood products, and the students across this state feel that Staples should be good corporate citizens and help protect the remaining four percent of the old growth left in the country."

*MASSPIRG Student Chapters are a statewide student-directed, non-partisan, non-profit organization, which does research, education, service and action on environmental, consumer, democracy, and hunger issues. Anyone who wants to get involved with MASSPIRG's ecopledge campaign or any others should contact MASSPIRG's organizer, Andrea Cimino at extension 4238.*

# Calendar of events and activities

## Film

"Casablanca" - Dec. 6, 7 p.m.; free; Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building.

"True Love and Household Saints" - Dec. 13, 7 p.m., double feature of films by director Nancy Savoca, sponsored by the Center for Italian Culture; $5; $3 for students and senior citizens; Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building.

## Music

Classic Lunch - Dec. 7, noon, performance by the Fitchburg State College Chorus; free; Hammond Lounge.

Handel's Messiah - Dec. 8, 8 p.m., featuring 28 members of the Indian Hill Symphony, the 40-voice Spectrum Singers, and regional soloists Jane Shivick, Susan Rodgers, Ray Bauwens and Bryan McNeil; conducted by Bruce Hangen, who will give a pre-concert lecture at 7:15 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall; $20; $15 for FSC staff, senior citizens, groups; $5 FSC students and under 18; Weston Auditorium.

## Visual art

"Echoed Visions" - Through Dec. 14, exhibition of works by artist Janice Basiletti; free; Art Gallery, Hammond Building

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This week's calendar covers events through the end of the semester. Listings including date, time, location, admission fee, sponsor and contact telephone number may be sent by email to point@fsc.edu, or by campus mail to The Point, Hammond Building.

# 'The Simpsons' enters 13th season

By Roger Roy

"The Simpsons," totaling over 250 episodes and well on its way to 300, has just entered its thirteenth season. The Simpson family resides in the community of Springfield (state is never given), and includes Homer, a father who gives bad advice and works as the safety inspector at the local power plant; Marge, a loving mother and wife who tries to keep peace in the family; Bart, a hell-raising 10-year-old; Lisa, a philosophical 8-year-old, who loves to play the saxophone; and Maggie, the baby, who communicates by sucking her pacifier."The Simpsons" has given us such phrases as "Ay caramba!" "D'oh!" and "Don't have a cow, man!" which have become a part of everyday language for many people. A true Simpson fan, when grabbing something, will say "yoink" and not even realize they are saying it. Or if they want to change a topic during a discussion, they will say "anyhoo," instead of saying "anyway."

When "The Tracey Ullman Show" needed a filler during some portions of the show, Matt Groening was brought in to work on the program. The Simpson family was created in less than fifteen minutes while Groening waited in the lobby to James L. Brooks' office. The show first appeared in April of 1987 as a series of thirty-second spots produced and developed by Groening. With positive feedback from viewers and producers, the Fox network premiered "The Simpsons" on Fox as a half-hour Christmas special in December 1989, and then as a regular series on January 14th, 1990.

As far as achievements go, "The Simpsons" have been honored with a Peabody Award, 18 Emmy Awards, 37 Emmy nominations, eight Annie Awards, three Genesis Awards, three International Monitor Awards, three Environmental Media Awards, and many more accolades. In September 2001, "The Simpsons" won an Emmy for Outstanding Animated Program, marking the seventh time "The Simpsons" have captured that award. The program also received the award in 1990, 1991, 1995, 1997, 1998, and 2000, respectively. Also, in 1997, "The Simpsons" surpassed "The Flintstones" as the longest-running prime time animated show in history. The ultimate honor came in January 2000, when "The Simpsons" received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

Who says that all good things must come to an end? "The Simpsons" has renewed it's contract with the Fox network for three more years (2001-2002 being the first year of the renewed contract). So to satisfy our Simpson needs we will be able to enjoy the show for another three years and rumor has it that after show has ended, there will be work on a full-length movie.

In 1999, Time Magazine named "The Simpsons" the best TV show of the 20th century, and with good reason. The series has transformed the way the television industry and audiences perceive animation and comedy in general. Evidenced by the proliferation and success of new animated series, which appeal to adults, "The Simpsons" has become the standard against which all others are measured. It's safe to say that without "The Simpsons" there would never have been a "South Park" or a "Family Guy." Many people argue that the Fox network itself would not exist today if it weren't for Bart, Homer, and the rest of the gang. In the meantime, the series continues to chug along without a hitch, and the future of America's yellow family is brighter than ever.

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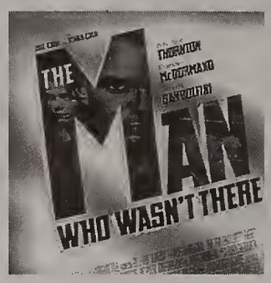
## 'The Man Who Wasn't There' but the good filmaking is

By Roger Roy

Set in post-WWII Smalltown, USA, "The Man Who Wasn't There" introduces us to Ed Crane, shortly before his life gets very interesting. Played to deadpan perfection by Billy Bob Thornton, his monotone voice and expressionless face is betrayed only by ever-seeing eyes. Trapped in a passionless marriage to Doris (played by Frances McDormand) who he is quite certain is cheating on him with friend, Big Dave (James Gandolfini), and working with his brother-in-law Frank (Michael Badalucco), Ed seems content to just live out his pathetic existence while the rest of the 20th century passes him by. That is until one day when a traveling huckster crosses his barber chair and gets Ed excited about some crazy new idea -- "dry cleaning!" (note: this movie is set in the 1950's). All he needs is a $10,000 investment from a silent partner and Ed starts to dream about making it big, just like Big Dave. Well, Ed sets off a scheme to get the money, and as with most Coen brothers' films, that scheme quickly awry, and his every effort to set things straight just makes them worse, yet you get the sense that Ed is enjoying actually living his life, even as he spirals towards inevitable disaster.This movie is simply a delight to watch. The writing is clever; the pacing is near perfection and the casting is, as always, brilliant. A perfect example of which is lawyer Freddy Riedenschneider (played by Tony Shaloub-Antonio from "Wings").Filmed in black and white, with the help of digital technology as well, this film-noir is an amazing change from today's movies. If you want a breather from fast action and foul language, go see this film.



# Handel's 'Messiah' set to perform

The Indian hill Symphony will present the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah" on Saturday, Dec. 8. at 8p.m. in Weston Auditorium as part of the college's CenterStage program

Tickets, $20 for the general public, $15 for seniors, groups and alumni ($5 for Fitchburg State students and children under 18) are available at the colleges's box office or by Mail order. Tickets will also be available at the door on the evening of the performance. Call Weston Box office at (978) 665-3347 Monday through Friday 12:30-3:30 p.m. or (978) 665-3709 for more information.

There will be a reception following the performance hosted by the corporate sponsors of CenterStage: Sentinel & Enterprise, Worker's Credit Union, Family Federal Savings, Fitchburg Savings Bank, and the Sheraton Four Points. All members of the audience are invited.

The "Messiah" is considered to be among the greatest pieces of Western music. From the power of the Hallelujah chorus to the quiet beauty of "He shall Feed His Flock it is timeless, glorious music.

The Fitchburg State concert will combine 28 members of the Indian Hill Symphony, the 40-voice Spectrum singers, and regional soloists Jane Shivick, Susan Rodgers, Ray Bauwens, and Bryan McNeil. Bruce Hangen, IHS music director and Boston Pops guest conductor will be at the lectern. Hangen will present a pre-concert lecture at 7:15 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall of the Conlon Building.

Now in its 26th season, the 75-member Indian Hill Symphony has made its mark by bringing high quality, world class music to the region. Affiliated with Indian Hill Music Center in Littleton, the IHS has collaborated with many area choruses, and has been featured on WGBH radios's "Classical Performances" program. Acclaimed performers who have appeared with the orchestra in past seasons include clarinetists Richard Stoltzman, violinist Joseph Silverstein, American composer David Amram, BSO concertmaster Malcom Lowe, and pianists Mia Chung and Russell Sherman.

Nationally recognized as a guest conductor of many of the world's leading orchestra's, Hangen is a frequent conductor of Boston Pops and Boston Pops Esplande Orchestras. Since 1979, his ongoing Pops affiliation has included everything from series programs to outdoor, touring and private concerts. He has also appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, Houston Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

CenterStage is underwritten by the Fitchburg State College Foundation. The Sentinel & Enterprise is sponsor of the Indian Hill Symphony. The performance is funded in part by the New Foundation for the Arts, with additional support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Tickets, $20 for the general public, $15 for seniors, groups and alumni ($5 for Fitchburg State students and children under 18) are available at the colleges's box office or by Mail order**

# 'Mulholland Drive' serves as an excellent ride

By Roger Roy

David Lynch is known to have make audiences uncomfortable. Just look at his past films.

Everyone remembers the horror of watching an angry Dennis Hopper inhale through his "oxygen" mask in "Blue Velvet." Viewers of "Lost Highway" felt chills down their spines when they learned of the certain technology being used on them. In "Mulholland Drive," Lynch does not let you down.

That being said, "Mulholland Drive" has been stuck in my mind for a few weeks, and the more I think about it, the more I love it. The more I think about it, the more I want to think about it. After the movie, I was like, "What the hell just happened?"

So, what's it all about? Well, part of the fun is finding out yourself since some stuff is vague and subject to individual interpretation. I give my two cents below. But basically, we mainly follow two women in L.A. One is a pretty, an almost too bubbly blonde, looking to be an actress. The second is a mysterious brunette (Rita) with amnesia from a car accident. Beth helps Rita figure out her mystery while also starting her acting career. Then, something happens throws all of the above in a whirlwind experience.

Yeah, doesn't sound like much, and I wish I could grab everyone serious about watching movies by the shoulders and tell them to watch this movie. There is a mystery behind it, a bizarre "normalcy" (the overabundant smiling), a mid movie twist, and one scene with a lone woman playing a Spanish version of Roy Orbison's "Crying," which is haunting and worth the price of the movie ticket alone.

I'll admit that many will not like this movie and even say that I cannot defend this movie. You either like it or don't understand how anyone can. I love it, and I'm not going to argue why. However, what I will say is that it's not as open-ended and unintelligible as it seems.

Remember that dreams need a different interpretation and that thoughts in reality can become distorted in dreams. Below are my thoughts on the movie which will surely be different a week from now.

This is purely a movie you must see for yourself, interpret yourself and visualize yourself.

# 'The Shadow Box' stresses life before death

By Sharlene K. Gugarty

Joe, Brian and Felicity are all dying. They are, in the words of medical professionals, terminal. Hospitals can do no more for them. They are too ill to return to their homes. They await the end in small cottages in a hospice in Northern California. So why are these people laughing?

They are laughing because, as characters in Michael Cristofer's award-winning play, 'The Shadow Box,' they are trying to tell their audience that dying is not dead. There is still life to live, there are songs to sing, music to dance to and they are going to take all there is and use it all up so that, when the end comes, there is nothing they have left undone or unsaid.

Director Cap Corduan of the FSC Industrial Technology Department has assembled a cast of amazingly talented actors and technicians who present Cristofer's vision with just the right blend of humor and pathos. This is not a tragedy; this is an affirmation. It is an affirmation of the power of the human spirit and the power of hope. It is an affirmation of the reality of fear and the ability of man to overcome it. The audience knows that the deaths of these characters are imminent. It is the living that is the truly majesty of the work.

Joe, played by Richard "DJ" Farren, is a young father, hopelessly in love with his wife, Maggie (Katie Letien) and devoted to his only son, Steven (Adam Svedberg). He welcomes them to the hospice cottage to share his last few weeks. It has been a long separation and he is overjoyed to see his family again. Steven wants to talk about plans for his father's return home and is anxious to spend time with him again. Maggie is simply anxious. Unable to accept her husband's impending death, Maggie has not been able to tell Steven that his father is dying.

Maggie's refusal to enter the cottage, symbolic of her refusal to accept Joe's death sentence, becomes the focus of their actions. Joe has accepted his fate. His courage in the face of death must lead Maggie to accept it, too. Instead, Maggie simultaneously holds Joe and pushes him away with her marvelously expressive hands. Letien manages to tell the audience the innermost thoughts of her character by simply wringing her hands or twisting her wedding band. Her shrill, staccato rants about cleanliness and other mundane concerns fade as the audience just watches her touch her husband, feeling inside the now baggy clothing for the man she has spent her life with.

Shane-Christopher Desmond is Brian, a pompous, pseudo-intellectual who is determined to leave nothing behind when he dies. He recalls his marriage to the flamboyant Beverly. He tells the audience that he just did not understand what she needed and then one day she was just gone. Now he shares his life with Mark. Mark, sensitively portrayed by Justin Grace, was hustling men on Market Street in San Francisco when he met Brian. Comically he recalls their first meeting when he was held virtually captive by Brian's ramblings just so he could get a free meal. The chance meeting of a street hustler and a lonely man has grown to love, and now Mark is at the cottage, waiting with Brian. The audience sees, through Grace's gentle gestures and pained expressions that what once was a hustle has now become a life-altering experience. As he cares for and cleans up after Brian, Mark almost completely subjugates his own needs. Except for his emotions, which no amount of stoicism can hide, Mark, himself has disappeared.

Former wife Beverly, the delightfully seriocomic Danielle Desmarais, drunkenly appears at the cottage bringing a bag of whiskey, champagne and guilt with her. A globetrotting gold digger, she adorns herself with baubles obtained from all her lovers. Deliciously Beverly describes her many lovers to Brian, whom the audience comes to see was really her only true love. Beverly is loud and raucous, all glitter and shine and seemingly without substance. Only when she is alone with Mark does the faiade drop.

Amber P. Knight is Agnes, dutiful daughter of Felicity (Michele L. Egerton). Felicity, in a medication-induced state of dementia, blind and confined to a wheelchair, has been holding off death's arrival for a very long time. She waits for a daily letter to arrive from Claire, her other daughter. Claire writes her mother daily to keep her posted on the progress she and her family are making toward returning home to see Felicity. Felicity is waiting for Claire. In what perhaps is the most tragic of these stories, the audience learns that the letter from Claire are actually written by Agnes, anxious to please her mother. Agnes learns that it is Claire, the sister she could never measure up to, who is now preventing Felicity from moving on toward death. Felicity, it seems, has made a bargain. She will live until once more she holds her daughter, Claire.

Director Cap Corduan, together with her cast and crew, has dedicated this production of 'The Shadow Box' to all families touched by cancer. For Corduan, producing the play has helped her express her emotions about a personal loss. But the play is not about death. The play is about life. In the words of Marcia McGowan, who lost her husband to cancer, "Cancer puts families in an emotional limbo that displaces them from everyday pleasures, the immediacy of surviving is the priority. And HOPE; you have to have hope. You just have to have hope."

The Shadow Box, a production of the FSC Industrial Technology and English Departments, continues at the Percival Hall auditorium at FSC. Performances are December 1, 5, 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. There is a matinee performance December 8 at 2:00. Tickets are $7.00 for general admission, $5.00 for students and senior citizens.

# 'Echoed Visions' on three dimensional display

"Echoed Visions," featuring work by visual artist Janice Basiletti, will be on display in FSC's Campus Center Art Gallery from Nov. 7 through Dec. 14. Basiletti creates three-dimensional paintings and sculpture using ceramic, wood and acrylic media. Her work contains "whimsical imagery influenced by visions and dreams." She has had solo exhibitions in Illinois, Tennessee and California, and been part of group shows throughout the country.

Basiletti, from Hollis, NH, received an M.F.A. in pictorial arts from the San Jose State University, a B.F.A. in the history of art from the University of Illinois, and an A.A. in art from the College of DuPage.

The Campus Center Art Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. and on Sunday, noon to 9 p.m. Admission is free and the community is invited to attend. For more information, or for holiday hours, call (978) 665-3162.

# Expression through body art

By Lisa Clark

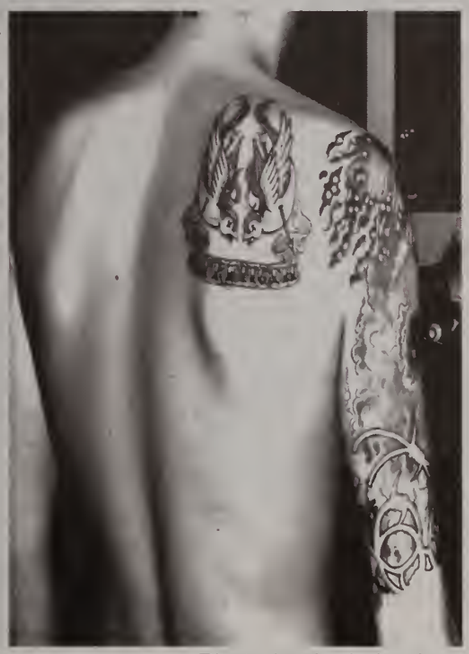
Tattoos, body piercing, and hair dye. Body modifications are one of the most common forms of self-expression nowadays. Johnny Miller, a 19 year old tattoo artist down in Cape Cod, said, "Tattoos and body modification are a form of expression that helps define the way that a person feels when they can't explain it with words."

How do employers feel about these acts of self-expression? "It's the kiss of death," says Jay Bickford, Assistant Director of the FSC Career Service Center (CSC), "Expression doesn't sell." The CSC advises against an individual's form if self-expression during an interview or applying for a job. "The conservative look is preferred," says Elaine Mazzarella, Director of CSC, "it's all about the appropriateness related to the job".

"You set yourself up for discrimination," says Bickford. "It's a big risk to take in the employment world." Many students who have visible displays of self-expression admitted to encountering problems in the work place, such as older members of the public who might be uncomfortable or feel intimidated by these methods of self-expression. Often times the words, "When I see such expression, especially body piercing, I talk to the piercing, not the person". Adam Sides, 19, said "My employer's disapproval came in the form of harassment."

"When my hair was black with pink stripes my boss yelled at me," stated Becky Allsop, 18, "he said it wasn't conservative and if I didn't change it I would no longer be employed." Allsop also mentioned that her bosses belittled her when she entered her work place, off the clock, wearing her lip ring.

"I have had someone ask me to grow my hair out", said Kristen Schuler, 20, "I flipped her off and told her I got the job with my hair this way and she could deal." Although Schuler's emotions are understandable, perhaps that was not the most beneficial way to get her forms self-expression accepted by her customers and her employers.



-Photo by Andy Levine.
FSC sophomore Chris Sablone

Some students have said that their employers warned them even before any action was taken with their experiments in self-expression. "I wanted to try blue hair, just for fun," said Ben Reed, 20 and head tour guide at FSC Admissions, "but my employer wouldn't approve of it".

How do these self-expressionists feel about their right? "The Celts were running around naked, painted blue, with yellow hair," said Adam Sides, "I think I should be allowed to get away with being clothed and a little dye."

"My body, my pallet," says Schuler, who was not allowed to color her hair wild colors at all while employed at an office job, "It's a form of art that keeps things exciting."

"People need to smarten up and deal with someone having an earring or nose ring or whatever," says Johnny Miller, "Visual discrimination allows for no advancement for people who aren't afraid to express the way they feel." Miller was once confused by a request to remove his earrings, when he worked as a chef, despite the fact that customers did not see him.

Ben Reed agreed with the concept of appropriateness by saying, "In certain situations an individual may not fit in because they do not portray the ideal image. First impressions are very important in a business."

Why do people modify their looks knowing that risks are involved with expressing themselves? "Normal hair color is so blaze," says Sides, "We have the tools to dye our hair, so why the hell not?"

"It fits my personality", says Schuler who had close to 20 piercings, "I enjoy being and looking eccentric."

"I got them to show my individuality", says Allsop, "and basically because I like how they look." All-

**Continued on page 10**

## Introducing **Campus Creations:**

Coming spring semester The Point will be dedicating a portion of the paper to **creative projects** of FSC students, staff and faculty. This will include: **writing (poems, short stories, etc.), artwork, photography, digital graphic design, etc.**

Submissions may be sent by e-mail (**point@fsc.edu**) or through campus mail.

For more information or to answer any questions, please contact Amy or Andy at **(978) 665-3647.**

# Extra study time

## Library extends hours for finals week

By Nate Mackinnon

As final exams are approaching, the stress level of students shoots through the roof. So much to do, so little time to do it. The Library begins to fill more and more as the studying progresses. The Library, in cooperation with Campus Police and the SGA, will remain open an extra hour the nights when there is a final the following day.

Instead of closing at 12:00 Midnight, the library will close at 1:00 AM. Thanks to support from the Campus Police, the library was able to make this possible. By adding this extra hour, students will be able to study for an extra hour. The library is currently open 97 hours a week. This is more than any other state college and even some of the UMass institutions.

The dates of the change are on the following evenings- Thursday December 13th, Sunday Dec. 16th, Monday Dec. 17th, Tuesday Dec. 18th, Wednesday Dec. 19th & Thursday Dec. 20th. Each of these nights has a final exam the following day.

So study away! Enjoy the quiet library atmosphere for an additional hour thanks to the Library, Campus Police and the SGA. Best of luck on your final exams.

# "My body, my pallet"

## Body modifications latest form of self-expression

**Continued from page 9**

sop currently had long black hair with bright purple tips.

"It shows a person's taste," said Miller, "being normal is just another fade that people use to make them selves feel better once they've realized that they are merely a serial number zombie conforming to the latest trend."

Although many agree with Miller, it might seem as if people who are fans of self-expression act out for the attention, and they too are conforming to the new popular forms of self-expression nowadays. If neon hairstyles begin to become more popular and publicly accepted, some might not choose it.

Self -expression is encouraged in most aspects of life. However, in the working world, conservatism is in. "I'm a huge fan of self-expression," admitted Mazzarella, "But I started to play the part." Mazzarella herself has 4 piercings and several tattoos. When going for your next job interview what will you choose, self-expression or conservatism? Perhaps it will depend on how important being hired and staying hired at a place of employment is to you..

-Kristine McCaffrey contributed to this piece.

# Campus Police show American Pride

-Photo by Andy Levine.

Campus Police cruise with patriotism.

By Nate Mackinnon

The officers of the Campus Police and Public Safety Department are sporting a new look as of recent. While the uniforms are still flashy and standard, the cars have been revamped. The obvious change is the missing Crown Victoria. Students do miss the rumble of the Ford engine, but its replacement is the sleek new Chevrolet Impala, which mixes style with enforcement. The new vehicle is starting to appear in police departments around the country and in Canada.

For quite a while, the police force has had and needed its two cars. Before the Impala, the "new" car was the unmarked white Ford Taurus which now has decals on it. Brian McCullough, chief of the Police Department, decided to form a committee to chose a decal design for the cars. In light of the events that occurred on September 11th, the committee decided to go with a patriotic theme, reinforcing our American Pride.

"Recognizing that the second car [the Taurus] was also white, it was decided that utilizing a blue and red flow stripe on the cruisers with American Flags seemed most appropriate as the college's way of honoring those that lost their lives, but also those who serve this country in many ways to provide a safe community," said McCullough. "The logo designs were chosen with valued input from officers, students and staff. I have found that this collaborative effort often allows for unique concepts to surface and that a 'new look' or notion can be discussed and implemented."

The police department's actions and decisions once again show their continued support as a member of the FSC community. So when you see one of the friendly officers cruising by *Impala Style*, be sure to send them a wave or a thumbs up to show your American Pride.

# Falcons fall as shots don't

Photo by Orlando Claffey

Freshman Jenn Kirkland tries to power the ball into the lane against a tough WNEC defense. The Falcons struggled in the second half as the Golden Bears effectivly shutdown the low post and dominated in the paint.

By Orlando Claffey

The Fitchburg State Women's Basketball Team faced off against Western New England College November 29, looking to get their third win of the young season.

The 2-2 Lady Falcons had a tough test ahead of them, with the Golden Bears of WNEC looking to keep their three-game winning streak alive at the Recreation Center.

The visiting team wasted no time, with their one-two combo of Katie Blaha and Jamie Carney, who pushing WNEC out to a ten-point lead with seven minutes left in the first half. The two played well, scoring 17 of the Bears 34 first half points, but the Falcons fought back.

Led by the strong play of Sophomore Meredith Cipriani, the Falcons cut the gap down to one, and then took control, leading at the half, 38-34. Cipriani was dominate in the first half, scoring 14 points and ripping down four rebounds along with Freshman Jenessa Berger, who scored five points.

The second half began slowly, with both teams struggling to regain their touch. A combination of good defense and missed shots led to only six points being scored by either team in the first five minutes. Cipriani broke a long drought, putting FSC back on top, 42-41, but WNEC tightened up around the Falcon's center, rendering her almost ineffective for the rest of the game.

Freshman Courtney Kelly picked up the slack, scoring at key points such as a big 3-pointer to end a 7-1 WNEC run. With time running down, the Golden Bears took the lead again but Freshman Katie Barber tied it back up at 51 on a fast break lay-up with 1:28 left in the game.

WNEC jumped out ahead by two, but the Falcons could not covert their possessions into points. A well-covered Cipriani was unable to score in the lane twice, and FSC shots from the perimeter clanged off the rim. In the end, the Golden Bears walked away with the win, topping the Falcons 56-51.

It was a hard fought game for FSC, but lack of production in the second half really hurt them.

"We didn't set screens, we got lazy," said Fitchburg State coach Walter Paschal. "The kids didn't respond."

With a 5-1 record, WNEC was one of the tougher teams the Falcons will face this season, but that gives little solace to players and coach.

"This was the toughest game to date," said Paschal, "but the kids didn't respond. It's disappointing, but when you start three freshmen, you have to expect letdowns. This team is just not used to winning."

Despite a strong WNEC defense and double-teaming of Cipriani throughout the second half, the Falcons played well, and came back from deficits often. The young team has a long road ahead of them, but they can only improve during that time.

## Men's Basketball Schedule

**12/8 Daniel Webster 6:00**
**12/11 Wheaton 8:00**
**12/13 Newbury 7:00**
**1/5 at Anna Maria 3:00**
**1/8 Worcester State 8:00**
1/12 at Salem State 3:00
**1/15 at Lasell 7:00**
**1/17 Nichols 6:00**
**1/19 Westfield State 3:00**
1/22 at Framingham State 8:00
**1/24 Mass College 8:00**
1/26 at Bridgewater State 4:00
1/29 at Worcester State 8:00

## Women's Basketball Schedule

12/8 at Emerson 6:00
**12/11 Wheaton 6:00**
1/5 at Anna Maria 1:00
**1/8 Worcester State 6:00**
1/12 at Salem State 1:00
**1/15 Roger Williams 7:00**
**1/17 Nichols 8:00**
**1/19 Westfield State 1:00**
1/22 at Framingham State 6:00
**1/24 Mass College 6:00**
1/26 at Bridgewater State 2:00
1/29 at Worcester State 6:00

## Ice Hockey Schedule

**12/8 Lebanon Valley 1:00**
12/28 at Skidmore 4:00
12/29 UM-Boston or St. Michael's 4 or 7
**1/5 SUNY-Brockport 7:00**
1/12 at Southern New Hampshire 7:40
**1/17 Wentworth 7:00**
1/19 at Western New England 7:00
1/22 at Nichols 5:00
1/26 at UMass-Dartmouth 4:30
1/29 at Salem State 7:00

## Winter Track Schedule

12/9 at Tufts - TBA
1/13 at MIT (M) / Tufts (W) - TBA
1/20 at Brandeis - TBA
1/27 at Southern Maine - 1:00 PM
2/3 Alliance Meet at Southern Maine -

If you have any Sports ideas or opinions, email them to:
**PointSports@Hotmail.com**

# Freshman Falcons are Golden against Bears

Photo by Orlando Claffey

Junior Dan Goulet prepares to fire a slap shot at a fightened WNEC goalie. The Falcons scored eight times and stonewalled the Golden Bear's offense to earn the win.

By Robin L. Kanter

Fitchburg State Hockey team grabbed with a win November 17, at the first home game against Western New England College. FSC came with a quick goal in the first period on a penalty play. Freshman Sebastien Corbeil scored with assists by both Senior captains Brian Baldassare and Jeff Brodeur.

The Falcons dominated the ice for the whole game keeping it hard for the Golden Bears to score. The new freshman on the hockey team showed WNEC who was on top. Junior Dan Goulet scored with assists by Freshmen Chad Fletcher and Lucas Colburn.

Second period came and FSC stood on top up by two goals. Five minutes into the second half Freshman Jason Rogato scored bring up the score 3-0. Sophomore Scott Campbell and Freshman Matt Cunha assisted Rogato.

Six minutes later Corbeil scored another goal with assists by Brodeur and Horan. Horan was not satisfied with just an assist, so he came back with a goal 5 minutes later. Brodeur assisted again along with Sophomore Shane Coleman. The Falcons suffered some minor penalties but none so severe to keep them from getting the work done.

FSC came into the third quarter pumped to finish off the Golden Bears, with the lead up to 5-0. Freshman Bill Burns came away with a goal. Helping him out was Freshman Chris Pryputniewicz.

The Falcons had the lead by six and were not going to stop there. Coleman was feeling the same way as Horan and took away a goal to. Assisted was Corbeil and Baldassare. FSC would score one more time before the game ended. Freshman Robert Zapf scored the goal giving the final score 8-0. Junior Dan Cetrone assisted along with Rogato.

The freshmen lead the game scoring the majority of the goals and most of the assists for the night. We can expect great things in the next four years. FSC had 45 shots on goal where the Golden Bears only had 15.

Junior Jason Holt played an impeccable game in the net for the Falcons saving every shot. Come support your Hockey team with upcoming game Saturday December 8, 2001 against Lebanon Valley at 1. Over Holiday Break come back to the college to support the team who has a game on Saturday January 5.

Photo by Orlando Claffey

Sophomore Scott Campell takes the puck out from behind the FSC goal to pass up the ice. The Falcon Defense allowed only 15 shots on goal, while firing 45 at WNEC.

# The long road from freshman to father figure; Steve Sinapis

By Peter B. Martin

A young man from Peabody with a mind for numbers and a drive for greatness continues to push Fitchburg Sate College to new heights. Steve Sinapis, Business Management major, came to FSC in 1997 with the hope of playing a little football and developing a career.

During his freshman year, Sinapis tried out for the Falcons and was chosen to start games as an offensive lineman among a group of veteran seniors. He excelled from the get-go, starting all 10 games that season and was awarded Rookie of the Year for the team as well as earning the All-Rookie Honorable Mention from the New England Football Conference.

Sinapis was bringing a new fire to his teammates. Him and his teammate, Jay Smith, were named captains and began working with new head coach, Dave Flynn, to improve on the previous season's record; however, they finished the same as the previous season with a record of 3-7. Sinapis was named to the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, which now meant that he could help his teammates "from behind the pads as well as out of them".

Under the pressure of his captain title Junior year, he battled for the best record ever achieved by an FSC football team. The team finished the year 6-4, and Sinapis was named to the All-Worcester First Team.

Most college students feel their senior year is their time to party and be carefree before they enter the real world. The world ended up being to real for Sinapis though. After a series of tests, his mother was diagnosed with ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

This news only reinforced Sinapis' desire to do the best he could. For the first time ever in FSC history, the football team beat out long-time rival Bridgewater State with a record of 6-3.

His success earned his a promotion from captain to Head Offensive Coach. Now in his final semester, Sinapis continues to help with his family. Recently, he took the Police Exam and scored a 99 out of 100. He is also looking at the accounting profession and to continue coaching and rebuilding the FSC Football team and teaching future Falcons to reach for that next goal and never give up.